

LAURENS DISTRICT 55 HIGH

5058 Highway 76 West
Laurens, SC 29360

GRADES 9-12 High School

ENROLLMENT 1,592 Students

PRINCIPAL Tara Dean 864-682-3151

SUPERINTENDENT Edgar C. Taylor 864-984-3568

BOARD CHAIR Leni N. Patterson 864-682-2633

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2003

ABSOLUTE RATING:

GOOD

Absolute Ratings of High Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
6	19	8	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

AVERAGE

The school's Improvement rating was raised one level because of substantial improvement in the achievement of students belonging to historically underachieving groups of students.

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

N/A

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Good	Good	N/A
2002	Good	Unsatisfactory	N/A
2003	Good	Average	N/A
2004			

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Passed all 3 subtests	74.1	58.7	62.3	66.0	62.7	63.9
Passed 2 subtests	14.8	20.6	18.3	17.3	18.4	18.0
Passed 1 subtest	6.9	12.6	12.1	10.0	12.0	10.6
Passed no subtests	4.1	8.0	7.3	6.7	6.9	6.9

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
All Students	264	96.2	237	11.8	312	65.4
Gender						
Male	122	92.6	102	9.8	151	47.7
Female	142	99.3	135	13.3	161	82.0
Race or Ethnic Group						
African American	81	95.1	95	2.1	133	51.9
Hispanic	4	I/S	2	I/S	3	I/S
White	179	96.6	139	18.0	175	75.4
Other	N/A	N/A	1	I/S	1	I/S
Disability Status						
Non-speech disabilities	15	80.0	21	0.0	30	76.7
Students without disabilities	249	97.2	216	13.0	282	64.2
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	264	96.2	237	11.8	0	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English proficient	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	3	I/S
Non-LEP	264	96.2	237	11.8	309	66.0
Lunch Status						
Subsidized meals	70	94.3	78	1.3	109	53.2
Full-pay meals	194	96.9	159	17.0	203	71.9

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Percent of	Our School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	11.8	10.4
Seniors who met the SAT requirement	11.8	10.7
Seniors who met the grade point average	54.4	50.0

*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n= 1,592)				
Retention rate	12.7%	Down from 16.8%	9.0%	7.3%
Attendance rate	95.2%	Up from 94.4%	95.4%	95.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	Down from 9.9%	4.2%	5.1%
With disabilities other than speech	15.8%	Up from 14.0%	12.1%	12.2%
Older than usual for grade	11.9%	Down from 14.5%	10.2%	10.1%
Suspended or expelled	2.5%	Down from 4.7%	2.5%	2.3%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	9.6%	N/A	N/A	10.2%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual dropout rate	2.0%	Down from 3.8%	2.7%	2.7%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	3.1%	Up from 3.0%	4.8%	3.2%
Enrollment in career/technology center courses	1246	Up from 1097	464	433
Students participating in worked-based experiences	26.4%	Up from 16.4%	22.2%	26.3%
Career/technology students mastering core competencies	64.2%	Down from 67.1%	76.9%	74.9%
Career/technology completers placed	100.0%	Up from 98.8%	99.4%	99.5%

Teachers (n= 93)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	48.4%	Down from 50.0%	47.8%	51.7%
Continuing contract teachers	75.3%	Up from 73.0%	80.0%	81.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	80.3%	Down from 83.1%	86.0%	85.1%
Teacher attendance rate	N/R	N/R	95.9%	95.8%
Average teacher salary	\$39,140	Down 1.7%	\$39,856	\$40,303
Prof. development days/teacher	11.3 days	Up from 10.6 days	10.8 days	10.3 days

School				
Principal's years at school	5.0	Up from 4.0	5.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	29.6 to 1	Up from 12.6 to 1	27.9 to 1	26.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	N/R	N/R	90.3%	90.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$5,798	Up 8.8%	\$6,302	\$6,279
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	57.1%	No change	57.5%	57.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	No change	88.2%	87.8%
SACS accreditation	yes	N/A	yes	yes

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data							
N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The 2002-2003 school year was very successful for students and faculty at Laurens District 55 High School. Student achievement continued to be the top priority for the year. The graduating class earned in excess of one-half million dollars in college scholarships. Also, twenty-five percent of the seniors scored at least 1000 on the SAT.

Results of the 2003 Exit Exam showed improvement in Mathematics scores for LDHS sophomores, as 77.7% of students tested scored above standard, compared to 73.7% in 2002. Reading scores dipped slightly to 75.8 in 2003 from 76.1 in 2002, a change that is statistically insignificant, especially in light of the fact that 355 students were tested in 2003, compared to 285 students in 2002.

Faculty members were involved in meaningful staff development throughout the year as all teachers were trained in using Thinking Maps-tools that will improve student achievement. A writing committee was formed to study writing throughout all curricular areas and to train teachers on effective student writing. Science teacher and athletic trainer Leanne Iacune, one of many outstanding teachers, was named Teacher of the Year for the school and district.

Tara A. Dean, Principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Number of surveys returned	91	210	77
Percent satisfied with learning environment	75.0%	49.0%	61.8%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	76.4%	61.1%	37.7%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	44.9%	69.7%	46.8%

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent - School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specified that the statewide target is met for all students and for each subgroup of students: racial/ethnic, economic, disability, limited English proficiency and migrant status.